

Weather

Today: Showers, thunderstorms. High 60. Low 40. Winds 15-25.
Tuesday: Mostly cloudy. High 54-59. Winds west 20-25 mph.
Yesterday: Temperature range 50-70. Details on Page D2.

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MONDAY,

MOSCOW WALKABOUT



Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher greets woman during a walking tour in Moscow yesterday. Story, Page A13.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Civil Rights Documents Backdated

Action Enabled U.S. Aides to Falsely Certify Compliance With Order

By Howard Kurtz
Washington Post Staff Writer

High-ranking Education Department officials have acknowledged repeated backdating of key documents to make it appear that they complied with a court order for quick reviews of civil rights complaints, according to department reports.

The practice enabled them to certify falsely to a federal judge that the government was obeying strict

court-ordered deadlines for the civil rights reviews, department officials acknowledged in interviews last week. The department has been fighting the court order for more than a year.

The backdating, which took place in at least six of the department's 10 regional offices, was most prevalent in the Boston office, where seven officials, including the former civil rights director, had been pledged to department investigators that they participated. The back-

dating allegedly ranged from one day to two weeks.

The admissions are detailed in a report by the department's inspector general, a copy of which was obtained by The Washington Post. By comparing papers with log books and other records, investigators found dates altered in 23 of 35 cases in Boston.

The department's Office of Civil Rights (OCR) has reported evi-

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Washington Post

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 1987

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Prices May Vary in Areas Outside
Metropolitan Washington (See Box on A4)

25¢

Hussein Weighing U.S. Visit

Progress Toward Mideast Peace Talks Seen as Critical Issue

By Samira Kavar
Special to The Washington Post

AMMAN, Jordan, March 29—Jordan is sending two top officials to Washington next week to discuss whether a visit by King Hussein would succeed in making progress toward an international peace conference on the Middle East, a senior Jordanian official said today.

Jordanian Prime Minister Zeid Rifai and Foreign Minister Taher Masri will go to Washington April 5, the official said.

Such a visit by Hussein would represent a sharp change in the Arab leader's attitude. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Hussein, two of the United States' closest Arab allies, were invited last December and January, respectively, to visit Washington. But both turned down the invitations at the time, in large part because of anger over the Reagan administration's sale of arms to Iran.

Jordan and Egypt, both concerned about Islamic extremism, are two of Iraq's most active supporters in its war with Iran.

In Washington, a State Department official said the Jordanian prime minister is scheduled to meet with President Bush, Secretary of State George P. Shultz and Secretary of Defense Caspar W. Weinberger during his visit.



KING HUSSEIN
... rejected latest invitation

"The king wants to see if this is an appropriate time to come, whether he should come this spring," the official said. The king is anxious to "get things moving" in the peace process again, he said.

Hussein, still angered by an American retreat from an arms sale to Jordan in 1985, had worked closely with U.S. officials in trying to stem the flow of arms to Iran and thus was among the most outraged Arab leaders after disclosure of the secret sales to Iran.

Some of the weapons sent to Iran were the same as those denied to Jordan, one of Washington's most stable Arab friends in the region.

In an interview in the Arab press in the aftermath of the Iran arms sales disclosure last November, Hussein said "U.S. credibility is zero as far as I am concerned." In an interview last year with Egyptian journalists, he called the arms deal "an insult to all Arabs."

The king also sent a letter to President Reagan expressing bitterness and anger about the U.S. arms sales.

"King Hussein is not interested in

Indicted Israeli Resigns

Col. Sella, Pollard's Alleged Contact, Cites U.S. Relations

By Glenn Frankel
Washington Post Foreign Service

JERUSALEM, March 29—Israeli Air Force Col. Aviem Sella, who is under U.S. indictment for his alleged role in the Jonathan Jay Pollard spy affair, today resigned his post as commander of one of Israel's largest air bases, citing his concern about relations with the United States and American Jews.

Sella's appointment to the new post late last month just days before his indictment helped touch off a new storm of controversy over the spying scandal. In his one-page letter of resignation to the Air Force commander, Gen. Amos Lapidot, Sella said: "The deterioration in Israeli-U.S. relations and my concern for the future of ties between the two countries and for relations with American Jewry have induced me to ask you to relieve me from my duties as commander of the Tel Nof base."

"I had made it clear to you a long time ago that whatever role I am assigned must not constitute a burden or obstacle to the Air Force or the IDF [Israel Defense Force]... and I noted that should my appointment constitute an obstacle of any kind, I would put the country's interest above my own and resign."

Israeli leaders reacted with relief

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